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Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Identical letters dated 4 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a letter from the Prime Minister of New Zealand, John Key, addressed to you, advising that the Government of New Zealand nominates Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand and Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, for the position of Secretary-General of the United Nations (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations kindly asks that you circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 120, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gerard **van Bohemen**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Please recycle

Annex to the identical letters dated 4 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Identical letters dated 4 April 2016 from the Prime Minister of New Zealand addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

For the past seventy years, the United Nations has been at the heart of our efforts to build a better world.

Today, the United Nations and the world are facing serious challenges. That is why we need a pragmatic and effective United Nations leader. It is time to elect the best person for the role of Secretary-General of the United Nations.

I am therefore honoured to nominate New Zealander Helen Clark.

Helen Clark is a stateswoman of international stature: she has a proved lifelong commitment to the ideals of the Charter of the United Nations and deep experience in and support for the United Nations as an institution.

Helen Clark has the right mix of political, diplomatic, managerial and modern communication skills which are required for this role:

- One of New Zealand's longest-serving Prime Ministers, Helen Clark was elected for three consecutive terms, from 1999 to 2008. She led the country for nine years and was at the forefront of New Zealand's constructive, fair and independent foreign policy.
- Since 2009, Helen Clark has served in the third-highest position within the United Nations, leading the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), coordinating the development activities of the United Nations system and taking the hard decisions necessary for making the United Nations more effective.

As a New Zealander, Helen Clark is well placed to bridge divisions and get results. I invite you to find out more about Ms. Clark at www.mfat.govt.nz/helen. Her biography is attached (see enclosure).

Helen Clark offers her total dedication to building a stronger United Nations. The Government of New Zealand presents Ms. Clark as the best candidate for this job.

(*Signed*) John Key
Prime Minister

Enclosure

Biography of Helen Clark

Helen Clark has served as Prime Minister of New Zealand and Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Her support for putting into practice the ideals of the Charter of the United Nations is the constant in a long and distinguished career.

Helen grew up on a farm in the Waikato, a region with a strong iwi (indigenous tribe), in New Zealand's North Island. Her father was a farmer and her mother a teacher, and they instilled in Helen a commitment to a close relationship with her family, strong values and a strong work ethic. As the eldest of four girls, Helen helped on the farm, where there were never girls' jobs or boys' jobs, just work to do.

As a student at the University of Auckland, she proved herself a top intellect, achieving a Master of Arts in political studies with first-class honours. Helen joined the movements for social justice sweeping New Zealand and the world, including the anti-apartheid movement. Nelson Mandela remains a personal hero. It was during her time at the University of Auckland that Helen met and married Peter Davis (now Professor Davis).

In 1981, at the age of 31 and after eight years as an academic, Helen was elected a member of the Parliament of New Zealand, serving the people of Mount Albert, a multi-ethnic inner-city suburb of Auckland. Early on in her parliamentary career, Helen served as Chair of the Foreign Affairs, Trade and Defence Select Committee and the Disarmament Committee. In the period from 1987 to 1990, Helen held senior government positions, as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health, Housing, Labour and Conservation.

For nine years, through three successive terms extending over the period from 1999 to 2008, Helen served as Prime Minister of New Zealand, running a diverse country in the Pacific. She was at the forefront of New Zealand's constructive, fair and independent foreign policy. Helen oversaw the negotiation of New Zealand's bilateral Free Trade Agreement with China, which was China's first such agreement with a member nation of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. She authorized major contributions to conflict resolution in Timor-Leste, Bougainville and Solomon Islands, as well as in Afghanistan in the aftermath of 11 September 2001.

Helen has always been a champion of diversity and of the empowerment of women. She was the first woman to be elected Prime Minister and her Cabinet was inclusive of women and Maori (the indigenous people of New Zealand). She oversaw major progress in the reconciliation process with Maori (making up 15 per cent of the population) as well as apologies to Chinese New Zealanders and Samoa for historical state actions. Her government prioritized the retention of New Zealand's indigenous Maori language, and on her watch, New Zealand was among the first countries in the world to adopt sign language as an official language. Her government also prioritized and succeeded in achieving high levels of employment based on inclusive economic growth.

In 2009, Helen relinquished her seat in the New Zealand Parliament when she was appointed Administrator of UNDP. She is also the Chair of the United Nations Development Group, a committee comprising the heads of all United Nations entities working on development issues. She has taken the hard decisions necessary to make UNDP more effective, and was reappointed unanimously by the General Assembly in 2013. Under Helen's leadership, UNDP topped the Global Campaign for Aid Transparency 2014 index of major worldwide aid institutions.